

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 29, 1989
TO: DLPC - Division File
FROM: Tom Miller - OSC - Collinsville
SUBJECT: 1630200005 - St. Clair County - Sauget/Sauget Sites
ILD#9807920006

RE: CERRO COPPER Drum Incident of September 20, 1989

On September 21, 1989, Bob Casteel, DLPC/PIO, submitted a facsimile message to Ken Mensing, Regional Manager, DLPC, Collinsville, concerning a report of an injury sustained by a contractor while drilling a hole for utility lines at the Cerro Copper facility in Sauget, Illinois. (See Attached Fax sheet).

On September 25, 1989, Ken Mensing requested that Tom Powell, ERU and Tom Miller, FOS, conduct a site visit to the Cerro Copper facility for the purpose of investigating the reported drum incident. Upon arrival at the facility at 10:45 a.m., Tom Powell and this writer met with Joe Grana, Manager of Environmental & Energy Affairs, for Cerro Copper. Mr. Grana told us that he had been contacted by Paul Takacs, Project Manager Federal Sites Management Unit and informed of the purpose of our visit to the facility.

Mr. Grana provided Tom Powell and this writer with the following information pertaining to the drum incident. It should be noted that he told us that a portion of his knowledge of the incident was received second-hand, as Mr. Grana became involved with the incident after-the-fact.

According to Mr. Grana, Pyramid Electric Company had a crew of five men on site September 20, 1989, drilling holes for the installation of utility poles as part of the construction of a surveillance system around the perimeter of the trailer parking lot, that was formerly a landfill, located east of the main plant area. The landfill is identified as Site I in a report prepared for the Agency by Ecology & Environment entitled, "Expanded Site Investigation Dead Creek Project Sites at Cahokia/Sauget, Illinois", (Volumes 1 & 2), May, 1988. At approximately 3:30 p.m., the Pyramid drilling crew augered through a buried drum at a depth of approximately 8 feet. Upon contact with the drum, an unknown amount of vapor was released into the workspace. The driller working directly over the hole, Robert Gussmann, immediately reported experiencing dizziness and tightness in his chest. Mr. Gussmann was taken to the Cerro Copper infirmary and then transported to Alexian Brothers Hospital in St. Louis. Mr. Gussmann was admitted to the hospital for observation and was released on Friday, September 22, 1989. Three other Pyramid employees went to the hospital on Thursday, September 21, 1989, and were released the same day.

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A soil sample was collected from the auger four hours after the incident took place and sent, by Cerro, to Monsanto's Krummrich facility for volatile and semi-volatile analysis. Monsanto's lab contacted Cerro at 3:00 a.m. on September 21, 1989, and informed them that they could not detect any specific peaks with their gas chromatograph equipment and could only identify the soil sample as being a heavy distillate with a "high boiling point". Monsanto added that the soil did not contain any chemicals that they make or have made in the past. Monsanto sent the remaining portion of the sample back to Cerro on Thursday morning. Upon receipt of the soil sample, Joe Grana sent the remainder of the sample to Envirometrics in St. Louis, MO for volatile, semi-volatile and pesticide analysis. The preliminary results of the soil sample analysis from Envirometrics is presented in Table 1.

Following the drum incident, Cerro employees backfilled the drill hole with the auger cuttings and applied sand on top of the cuttings with a bulldozer. According to Mr. Grana, the hole was 16-18" in diameter and 8-10' deep. He also informed us that Cerro's contractor, the Advent Group, was going to collect another sample from the drum incident hole and submit it to Gulf Coast Laboratories located in University Park, IL. Tom Powell informed Mr. Grana that the Agency would like to obtain a split sample of the soil boring collected from the drum incident location. Mr. Grana agreed to contact us when the sampling took place.

Upon completion of our meeting, Mr. Grana accompanied the group to the location of the drum incident (See site map for exact location) in the southeast corner of the site (Roll 1143, 1 & 2). After observing the site of the incident, the group observed three Pyramid vehicles parked along the fence directly adjacent to the Sauget Village Hall (Roll 1143, 3). Mr. Grana informed us that Pyramid's insurance company had contacted him and requested that the vehicles remain on site until they could be properly decontaminated. Mr. Grana requested guidance from Tom Powell and myself for proper decon procedures. Mr. Powell told Mr. Grana that the decon procedures would have to be recommended by the Project Manager, Paul Takacs. Tom Powell and this writer departed the site at 12:15 p.m.

Joe Grana called Tom Powell at 3:00 p.m. on September 25, 1989 and informed him that the soil samples from the drum incident location had been collected. This writer picked up the sample (DI02) at 3:58 p.m. from Joe Grana and spoke briefly with Chris Bade, Advent Group, concerning the procedures utilized by Mathes for the collection of the drum incident soil sample. According to Mr. Bade, the sample was collected by Advent's subcontractor, John Mathes & Associates, utilizing a CME 55 drill rig, augering to a depth of 13'. The sample was collected between 9'-13' with a split spoon sampler. The OVA reading in the bore hole was reported to have been 275 units. The sampling activities were performed in Level "B" PPE. At the completion of boring activities, the bottom 2' of the hole was filled with grout, the cuttings were placed back into the hole and the bore hole was grouted to the surface.

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Upon arrival at the Collinsville Office, this writer sealed the sample with evidence tape and stored it in the sample refrigerator located in the storage room. On September 26, 1989, I sent the sample under proper C.O.C. procedures to ARDL Laboratories in Mt. Vernon, IL, for analysis (See attached lab sheet and C.O.C. form).

TWM:pbo/0407L

cc: DLPC - Collinsville ✓
cc: Tom Powell
cc: Paul Takats
cc: Will Flower

Attachments

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